

Missions Lecture 6

Acts Chapters 13-20

The Mission To The Gentiles

Exercise 1

- Group 1: read Acts 13-16
- Group 2: read Acts 17-20
- What is happening here?
- Who are the main proponents?
- How do the Jews react?
- How do the Gentiles react?
- What lessons can we learn from this?



Acts 13 – Paul & Barnabas Sent Out

- Sent out from the local church after prayer, fasting and the leading of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1-3)
- Confrontation with Bar-Jesus / Elymas the magician – a 'power encounter' (Acts 13:5-12)
- Victory – results in faith
- The gospel to the Jews (v.13-43)
- The Gentiles believe (v.44-49)
- Leaving the city (v. 50,51)
- The disciples' joy (v. 52)



Acts 14 – Signs & Wonders

- Many miracles in Iconium (v.3)
- Healing of a lame man in Lystra results in confusion with the Greek gods – people interpret things via their own cultural framework/s (v. 8-19)
- Paul is stoned by the Jews, left for dead, but recovers, implication of a miracle (v. 20)
- The return journey (v. 21-26)
- Report to the home church (v.27)
- Ministry to the home church (v.28)



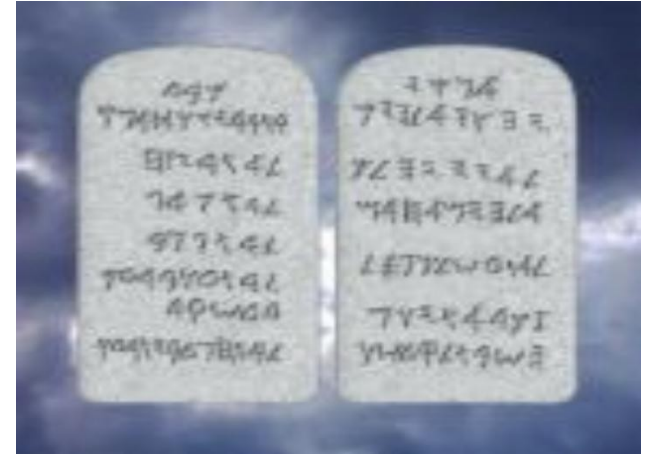
Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council

- There is a dispute over whether or not the Gentiles should be circumcised and as to whether they should keep the Jewish law (V. 1-5)
- The entire leadership is gathered (v.6)
- Peter recounts his experience with Cornelius and questions the burdensomeness of the Law (v. 7-11)
- Paul & Barnabas testify to the grace of God among the Gentiles (v. 12)
- James (a Jewish conservative) agrees and proposes a compromise (v. 13-21) which would allow some unity
- A letter is composed and sent out (v. 22-31)
- The Gentile ministry at Antioch is strengthened (v. 32-35)
- Paul and Barnabas argue and separate (v. 36-41)



Acts 16 - Macedonia

- The call of Timothy (v. 1-3)
- Strengthening the churches (v. 4,5)
- Holy Spirit guidance! (v. 6-10)
- Conversion of Lydia (v. 11-15)
- The 'python' spirit of divination is exorcised (v. 16-18)
- Riot and imprisonment (v. 19-24)
- Praise results in an earthquake! (v. 25-29)
- The jailer and his household are saved (v.30-34)
- Paul demands his civil rights (v. 35-40)



Acts 17 – The Gospel To The Greeks

- Thessalonica – a few Jews and many Greeks are saved, but the other Jews turn nasty. (v. 1-9)
- Berea – the Jews there were different: *Acts 17:11-12 ESV Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. (12) Many of them therefore believed.....*
- Athens – Stoics and Epicureans. Paul speaks at the Areopagus, (v.13-34)
- Starts with Creation, Fate, Divine order of things, uses intellectual curiosity & dissatisfaction w. 'the gods', refutes Epicureans first, then Stoics.
- God does not dwell in temples 'houses made by human hands' and has no need of human service
- Judgment, repentance, resurrection, Jesus



Acts 18 – Corinth & Achaia

- Corinth was a huge city for ancient times (800,000) second only to Rome and was highly immoral
- Paul ministers here for 18 months + as God has many people he wants saved
- Is protected from persecution
- Tent-maker early on, full-time later on
- Recruits Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos
- Priscilla & Aquila correct Apollos and explain the baptism of Jesus and of the Spirit
- Paul goes to Ephesus, Antioch and Galatia
- Apollos goes to Achaia



Acts 19 – Ephesus & Idols

- Baptism in the Holy Spirit (v. 1-7)
- 3 month ministry to the Jews, then 2 year ministry in the Hall of Tyrannus to the Gentiles (v. 8-10)
- Power ministry (v.11,12)
- Power encounter leads to gospel proclamation (v.13-17)
- Repentance- Magic & sorcery items destroyed (v. 18-20)
- Opposition from makers of idols – fueled by loss of income and by loss of the respect for the idol-making trade (v. 23-30)
- The riot is quelled by the City clerk, Paul obviously knew some of the top officials (Asiarchs) – the importance of good social connections for a missionary (V. 31-41)



Acts 20 – The Farewell Speech

- Paul travels back to Jerusalem and Luke rejoins him along with a group of 'trainee apostles' (v. 1-6)
- Paul talks for too long at Troas and Eutychus falls out the window and is resurrected by Paul (v. 7-12)
- Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders (v. 18-38) warns of false teachings, and reminds them of his example.
- Declares 'the whole counsel of God' = preaching the Kingdom – missionary to preach the whole gospel!!!
- Tells them that he will be imprisoned and that he will not see their faces again. Prepared to suffer for Jesus Christ.

